

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00897 211353Z

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MEDIA ON CARTER UN SPEECH AND FOREIGN POLICY

1. SUNDAY MARCH 20 EDITION OF HSWP DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CARRIES FRONT-PAGE, TWO-COLUMN ARTICLE BY JANOS HAJDU, ANALYZING FIRST TWO MONTHS OF US FOREIGN POLICY UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION, IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. PLACEMENT OF ARTICLE ON LEFT-HAND SIDE FRONT PAGE GIVES IT CHARACTER OF SEMI-OFFICIAL PARTY COMMENTARY. FYI: COMPLETELY OFFICIAL PARTY POSITIONS ARE EXPRESSED IN UNSIGNED PAGE THREE EDITORIALS.

2. HAJDU ARTICLE STATES IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO FORM FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE POPLICY OF ANY LEADER OR GOVERNMENT

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 00897 211353Z

AFTER ONLY 60 DAYS. ACCORDING TO HAJDU, PRESIDENT CARTER CAME TO WASHINGTON AS AN OUTSIDER WHO HAD RUN AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED WASHINGTON ORDER. THIS IS WHAT GOT HIM ELECTED, BUT IT ALSO MEANT THAT HE WAS BY NECESSITY INEXPERIENCED IN FOREIGN POLICY. BEING LIMITED IN HIS POSSIBILITIES OF SOLVING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, HAJDU CONTINUES, THE PRESIDENT FOCUSED ON FOREIGN

POLICY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM HIS DIFFICULTIES AT HOME.

3. POSTULATING THAT SOCIALISM IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO CAPITALISM AND ITS MANY DIFFICULTIES, ARTICLE DECLARES ANY CAMPAIGN IS BOUND TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE FORMER, AND CALLS THE HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION A "SUDDENLY STIRRED UP IDEOLOGICAL CRUSADE, MADE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS BY ITS COUPLING WITH INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS".

4. HAVING MADE THAT POINT IN HARSH TERMS, HAJDU CLAIMS THAT THE MAIN DANGER OF THIS "CAMPAIGN" LIES IN THE DAMAGE TO MUTUAL CONFIDENCE WHICH IT PRODUCES, AND ITS INEVITABLE EFFECT ON SALT, MBFR, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE.

5. HAJDU SEEMS TO DERIVE SOME SATISFACTION FROM HIS ANALYSIS THAT "WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS AND THE MORE SERIOUS NEWSPAPERS THERE HAVE ALSO URGED CAUTION AND RESTRAINT UPON THE US."

6. SWITCHING TO A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, ARTICLE EVALUATES PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH IN MORE FAVORABLE TERMS, SAYING "IT LOOKS AS IF A MORE REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THINGS IS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP" AND CONCLUDES BY HOPING FOR A CHANGE IN TONE IN U.S. PRONOUNCEMENTS. TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE WORKED FOR TOO LONG TO BRING ABOUT THE STILL FRAGILE STATE OF DETENTE, HAJDU SAYS, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 00897 211353Z

WORTHWHILE TO KEEP BUILDING RATHER THAN ENDANGERING IT.

7. COMMENT: ARTICLE APPEARS TO REFLECT THE CONFUSION PRESENTLY REIGNING IN COMMUNIST PARTY CIRCLES AS HSWP LEADERS LABOR TO ASSESS THE FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTIONS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION. ON THE ONE HAND PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITIONS ON DISARMAMENT, SALT, LIMITATION OF ARM SALES, CONTROL OF SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, VIETNAM, CUBA AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN WELCOMED AS HIGHLY POSITIVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE HAS SURFACED A LATENT PARANOIA AND INSECURITY AWAKENING IN MANY LEADERS DEEP FEARS RE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF DETENTE POLICY AND IMPACT THAT FAILURE OF THE POLICY MIGHT HAVE ON HUNGARIAN INTERESTS.

8. FOR NOW, THESE MIXED FEELINGS APPEAR TO HAVE CAUSED A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. HOPE MIXED WITH FEAR IS THE POSTURE. END COMMENT.

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